

B-3071 - B-3072
15-19 W. Montgomery St. (South side)
Baltimore, Md.
Private access

1847-1850

All three of these brick houses were originally built as two story plus attic, two bay wide houses with low-pitched gable roofs, by Frederick Cook, Sr., a butcher who lived at the corner of Montgomery and Charles Streets. 15-17 W. Montgomery St. still retains its original exterior form and is notable for the bull's-eye door and window lintels used on the facade, even over the attic story windows. 19 W. Montgomery St. was enlarged after the Civil War and now is a full three stories in height with shed roof and bracketed cornice. The houses are currently unoccupied, but have recently been sold by the city to private owners who hopefully will soon renovate them.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3071
MAGI 0430712404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

15-17 W. Montgomery St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

—OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

—YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER restoration

~~contemplated~~

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-3071

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This pair of two story with attic brick houses was built as a unit. The houses are two rooms deep under a gable roof, with a one story rear extension.

The houses are two stories tall, with an additional attic story. They are 11' wide each and extend back on their lots about 38'. They are constructed in running bond. The low-pitched gable roof is covered with tarpaper. The two, double rectangular chimneys are centrally located along the partition wall separating the houses--one on the front gable, one along the rear gable. A simple brick cornice runs across the entire facade.

All of the openings were originally surmounted by block-end wooden lintels with round end medallions. Today these remnants of Greek Revival style design survive only on the openings of 17 W. Montgomery St. and the attic windows of 15 W. Montgomery St. All sills are wood. None of the original sash remains*and the openings are either boarded or empty. A paneled door surmounted by a light transom survives at 15 W. Montgomery St. The houses sit on high basements with tall rectangular coal openings flanking the stoops. Only the bottom, wide stone steps remain at 17 W. Montgomery; the original stone steps of 15 W. Montgomery have been replaced by a modern brick entrance stairway.

The floor plan and interior details of 15-17 W. Montgomery St. conform to the basic type characteristic of 2 1/2 story or two story with attic structures in this area, but there are details and refinements which mark this pair of houses as being slightly above the average in quality. Like most houses of this type all three floors are divided into front and back rooms of approximately equal dimensions (in this case 11' x 12' and 11' x 14'). There is additionally a one story kitchen extension with sloping roof which runs back from the main house about 11' and is at present the same width as the main house. That this extension was originally narrower than the main house (as is usual) can be deduced from the fact that a window opens from the rear wall of the back room into this space. Both front and back rooms of the first and second floors have fireplaces. As is usual with houses of this type, the stairs are located in a niche between the partition wall separating the front and back rooms, and the fireplace in the back room. What is unusual, however, is that the stairs are wider and more gently curving than is often found. Built-in shelves flank the fireplaces in the back rooms of the first and second floors. Ceiling heights of the first two floors are 8 1/2'; the attic story has a ceiling height of 7' at its center, sloping down to 5' above the windows. On the second floor rear of the house there is a 3' extension built out over the rear yard. It most recently served as a bathroom.

Most of the interior details of 15-17 W. Montgomery St. seem to have survived in close to their original condition. The door and window frames of the front rooms show the same Greek Revival-inspired block-end lintels with end medallions as seen on the facade. All of the mantelpieces survive except for the first floor front of 17 W. Montgomery. These are simple designs with plain friezes, and a nicely molded mantel shelf, supported by Doric pilasters on the 1st floor, and a small pediment. The one story extension has full-height vertical paneling.

*Original 4/4 sash survives in the first floor front of 17 W. Montgomery, behind the boards.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1847-50

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederick Cook, Sr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These houses are particularly interesting examples of the two story plus attic style so common to this area of Federal Hill (see under 2-12 E. Montgomery St.) because of the Greek-Revival style exterior window lintels, an added form of decoration not usual in houses of this type.

The houses were built by Frederick Cook, a butcher, who with his son, also a butcher, occupied the houses originally to the east of these houses, at 11 and 13 W. Montgomery St. The Cooks evidently built these houses next to their residences to provide them with rental income. (The Cook's own houses have since been razed.) The Cooks later had butcher stalls in both the Hanover and Lexington Markets.¹ 15 W. Montgomery St. remained in the Cook family until 1903; 17 W. Montgomery St. remained in the family until 1888.²

¹Baltimore City Land Records, Liber TK 245, Folio 470;AWB 371, Folio 456,458; Baltimore City Directory, 1835-36, 1840-41, 1845, 1849-50, 1860, 1868-69

²Ibid., RO 2033, Folio 477; JB 1204, Folio 325

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

DATE

3/79

STREET & NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

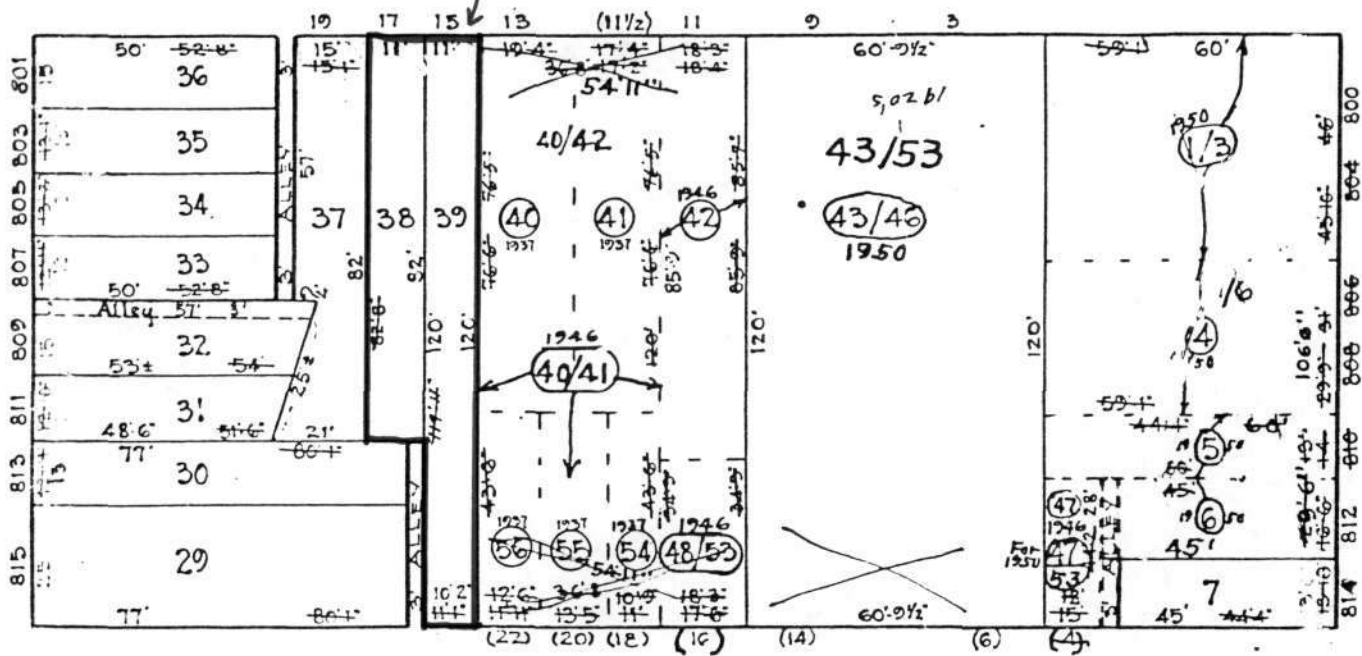
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

W. MONTGOMERY

82

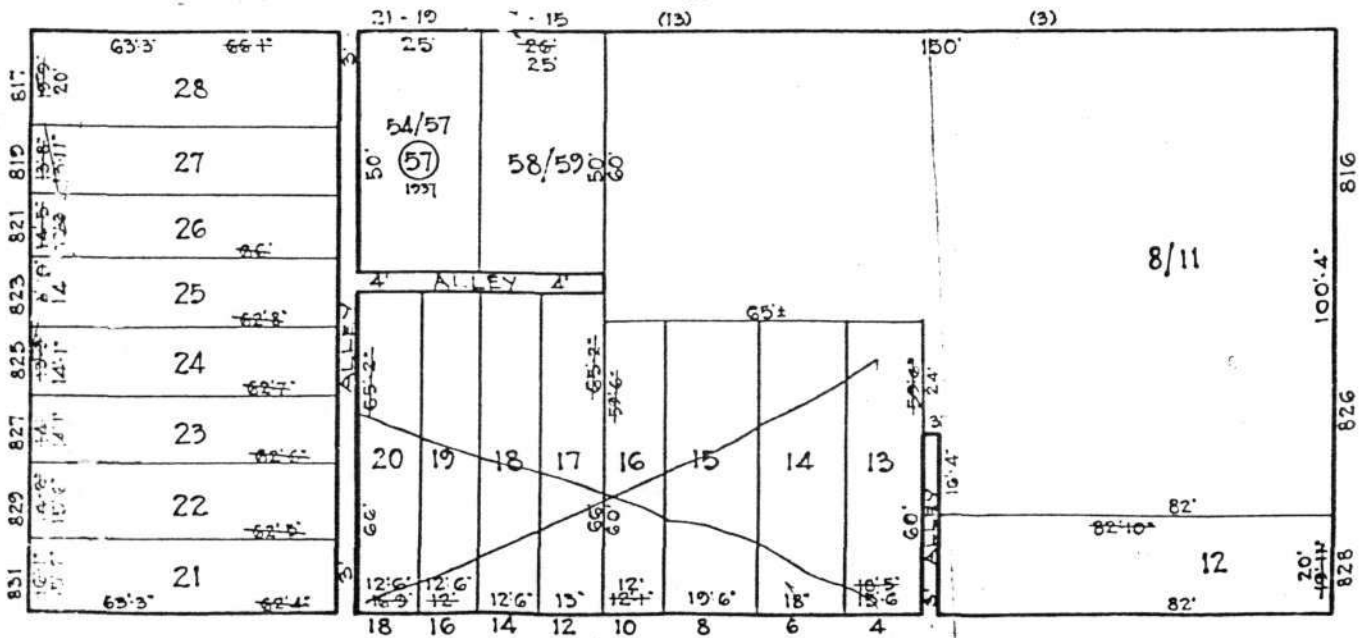
ST.

B-3071



W. CHURCHILL

ST.



W. HENRIETTA

66

ST.

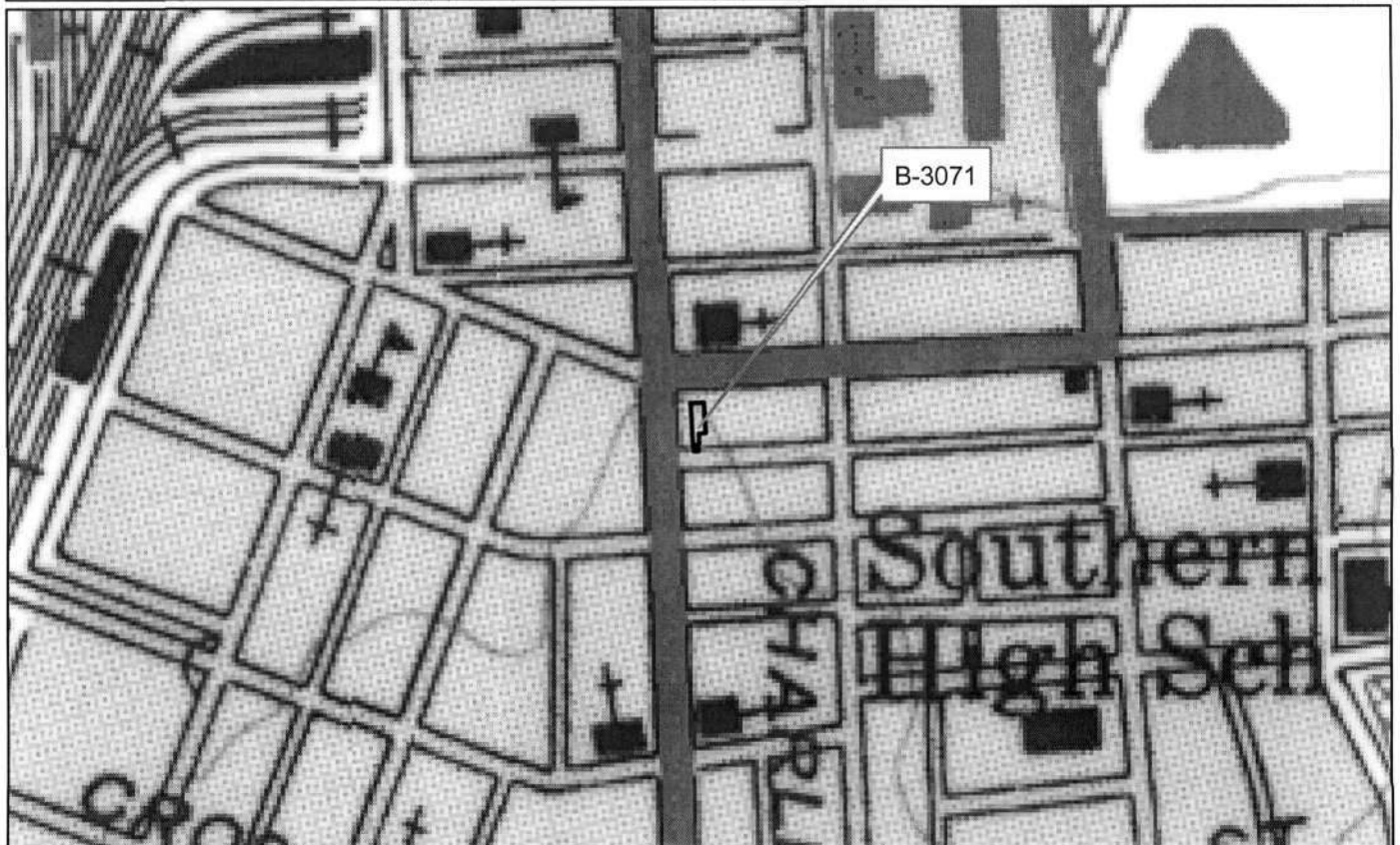
S. HANOVER

ST.

66

S. CHARLES

B-3071
15-17 W. Montgomery Street
Block 0904 Lots 039-038
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





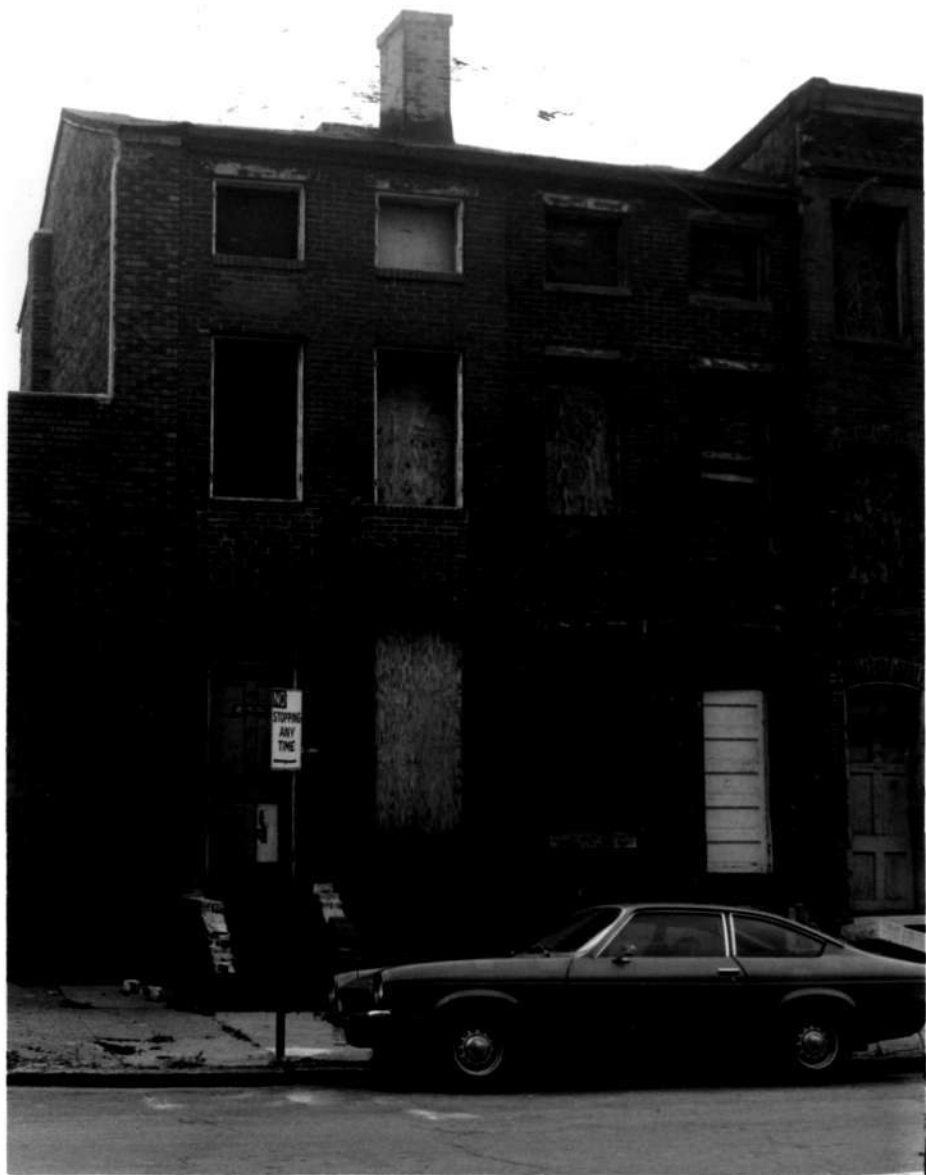
B-3071

15-17 W. Montgomery St.

M.E.H.

5/79

North elevation



B-3071

15-17 W. Montgomery St

M.E.H.

6/79

North elevation